

Senate Joint Resolution No. 12

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 27

Senate Joint Resolution No. 12—Relative to closing the flight-service station at the Arcata-Eureka Airport.

[Filed with Secretary of State April 23, 1997.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 12, M. Thompson. Closure of the flight-service center at the Arcata-Eureka Airport in McKinleyville, Humboldt County.

This measure would memorialize Congress to oppose the closure of the air flight-service center at the Arcata-Eureka Airport, in Humboldt County, California, and to direct the Federal Aviation Administration to act accordingly.

WHEREAS, The Federal Aviation Administration is scheduled to close the flight-service station at the Arcata-Eureka Airport in McKinleyville, Humboldt County; and

WHEREAS, All onsite personnel will be eliminated and the airport will be operated as an automatic flight-service center, served by an air traffic controller located in Oakland, California; and

WHEREAS, The FAA plan eliminates all air traffic personnel between McMinville, Oregon, and Oakland, California, and this same geographic discrepancy on the east coast of the United States would be similar to eliminating all air traffic controllers between Portland, Maine and Richmond, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, The Arcata-Eureka Airport flight-service center has provided daily services for commercial, corporate, and general aviation traffic for over four decades; and

WHEREAS, It serves the region's smaller airports, which include Brookings, Oregon, and Crescent City, Fortuna, Shelter Cove, Willow Creek, and Hoopa, California, and averages 150 to 300 contacts and a traffic flow of 40 to 100 airplanes daily; and

WHEREAS, There are unique weather and geographic factors to be considered such as that the airport was constructed overlooking the Pacific Ocean by the Navy during World War II to test military defogging equipment, as it is believed to be the foggiest stretch of coastline in the western United States; and

WHEREAS, On average, Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) must be filed 265 days per year due to fog and inclement weather, and station personnel must utilize a wide array of tools to ensure air traffic safety, including radio frequencies, the telephone, a direction finder, and on-the-ground view of the runway; and

WHEREAS, The closure of the station would put the safety of air travelers on the north coast of California at risk, air traffic will experience greater delays and flight cancellations, and local efforts to improve the regional economy through tourism and commerce will be adversely affected; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the California Legislature memorializes Congress to oppose the closure of the air flight-service center at the Arcata-Eureka Airport, in Humboldt County, California, and to direct the Federal Aviation Administration to act accordingly; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

